GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4761
ANSWERED ON:27.04.2005
INDIANS IN BANGLADESH JAILS
Subba Shri Moni Kumar

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether nine Indians were arrested in Bangladesh on March 11,2005 and they are currently lodged in jails;

(b) if so, the total number of Indians in Bangladesh jails as on April 1, 2005; and the grounds on which they have been arrested/imprisoned indicating the charges against them; and

(c) the steps so far taken to secure their release and facilitate their return to India at the earliest?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS(SHRI E. AHAMED)

a) Yes, Sir. Nine Indian nationals from Tripura were arrested on March 11, 2005 in Laksham, Comilla district of Bangladesh.

b) The precise number of Indians in Bangladesh jails as on April 1 2005 is not known since the Government of Bangladesh does not inform the High Commission of India in Dhaka about the arrests. However according to available information, 738 Indian nationals were in Bangladeshi jails as on January 2004. Indians are generally arrested on charges of violating Bangladeshi immigration laws.

c) The High Commission of India in Dhaka is in continual contact with the Bangladesh Foreign Ministry and other authorities to secure consular access as well as their early release and repatriation.